

## DRESSED UP AND DANGEROUS?

Halloween blood and gore are harmless stuff for the most part. But sometimes dressing up as a super hero, a swash bucking pirate, or an alien from outer space - coupled with the excitement of Halloween - brings out aggressive behavior.

Even fake knives, swords, guns and other costume accessories can hurt people. If these objects are part of a child's costume, make sure they are made from cardboard or other flexible materials. Better yet, challenge kids to create costumes that don't need "weapons" to be scary and fun.



## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

We invite you to join the partnership. You can become a Reserve Police Officer, join a Community Neighborhood Watch Group, attend the Citizen's Police Academy, become a Police Volunteer, participate in a citizen ride-along or just communicate your concerns and ideas to our Officers.

*Together, we can make a difference!*

For more information contact:

COMMUNITY ACTION  
&  
INFORMATION UNIT  
(650) 903-6357 OR (650) 903-6707

City of Mountain View Police Department  
1000 Villa Street  
Mountain View, CA 94041

**Web Site Address:**  
<http://www.mvpcd.gov>

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[police@mountainview.gov](mailto:police@mountainview.gov)

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**HALLOWEEN SAFETY POINTERS FOR PARENTS**  
MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT

**H**ALLOWEEN MAY BE A FUN HOLIDAY FOR KIDS, BUT FOR PARENTS, TRICK OR TREAT TIME CAN BE A LITTLE TRICKY. CONCERNS ABOUT CHILDREN'S SAFETY - WHETHER THEY ARE OUT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OR BACK HOME WITH BAGS OF BOOTY - CAN DARKEN THE DAY MORE QUICKLY THAN A BLACK CAT. BUT NOT TO WORRY! TO MAKE HALLOWEEN A TREAT FOR ALL, FOLLOW THESE SAFETY TIPS:



### MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS DRESS UP SAFELY

- Check that the costumes are flame retardant so the little ones aren't in danger near burning jack o lanterns and other fire hazards.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.
- Try make up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable and, more importantly, they can obstruct a child's vision - a dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets and going up and down steps.
- Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes.
- Trick or treaters always should be in groups so they aren't a tempting target for real life goblins. Parents should accompany young children.

### MAKE TRICK OR TREATING TROUBLE FREE

- Make sure older kids trick or treat with friends. Together, map out a safe route so parents know where they'll be. Tell them to stop only at familiar homes where the outside lights are on.
- Try to get your kids to trick or treat while its still light out. If its dark, make sure someone has a flashlight and pick well lighted streets.
- Make sure kids know not to enter strange houses or strangers cars.

### CONSIDER THIS

Parents and kids can avoid trick or treating troubles entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories, and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be!

Schools, firefighters, libraries, or civic groups in many communities organize "haunted houses" and other Halloween festivities for families.

### TREATS

- Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick or treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or a snack beforehand.
- Check out all treats at home in a well lighted place.

### WHAT TO EAT?

- Only unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious. By all means, remind kids not to eat everything at once or they'll be feeling pretty ghoulish for awhile!

Halloween can be a lot of fun for parents and kids alike - if everybody remembers the tricks and the treats of playing it safe.

